

Supervisor Romaine, Councilwoman Bonner and Town Board Announce Transfer of \$400,000 Grant to Friends of Science East, Inc. for Their Acquisition of the Tesla's Wardenclyffe Lab Site in Shoreham

posted on 5/8/2013 12:29:08 PM

May 7, 2013

Farmingville, NY - At the May 7 Town Board meeting, Supervisor Romaine, Councilwoman Jane Bonner and the entire Town Board voted unanimously to transfer a \$400,000 matching grant to the Friends of Science, Inc. (DBA Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe) to go toward the acquisition and preservation of the former site of Nikola Tesla's historic Wardenclyffe lab in Shoreham. The grant was awarded to the Town in November 2010 by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP)/Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) under the 2010-11 municipal parks, historic preservation, and Heritage Areas grant round. The Town sought the grant in response to concerned residents seeking to preserve this historic site, in an effort to provide up to \$806,395 for the purchase of the property. The Friends of Science East, Inc. announced their purchase of the property last week and plan to build a museum and science center on the site.

The proposed facility will be dedicated to the life and work of Nikola Tesla, who was a pioneer in the development and commercial use of alternating current electricity, radio, neon lighting and x-rays among other inventions. The group's efforts to raise money became an international story after a Tesla enthusiast launched a successful online fundraising campaign that resulted in \$1.4 million in donations to date.

"Nikola Tesla was a visionary who was ahead of his time, seeing at the turn of the 20th century the wireless world we live in today - and his groundbreaking experiments in this technology happened right here in Brookhaven," said Supervisor Romaine. "The preservation of the Tesla Wardenclyffe property is critical in telling this important chapter of our history to both our children and visitors to the area, and I'm happy we were able to play a role in helping the Friends of Science East, Inc. in achieving this goal."

"I thank the Supervisor and my fellow board members for supporting my efforts to help preserve this historic landmark, and I congratulate the Friends of Science East for finally realizing their dream," said Councilwoman Bonner. "I look forward to working with them as their plans for the museum and science center move forward."

Jane Alcorn, president of Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe said, "Almost 100 years after Nikola Tesla lost his claim to Wardenclyffe, we have been able to reclaim it in his name. We want to thank Matthew Inman, and people throughout the world who contributed to make this possible, and to the local residents who have always supported our goal. With their continued support, we look forward to creating a museum and science center worthy of Tesla and his legacy."

The 15.69 acre Wardenclyffe property is the site of the red brick laboratory where Tesla planned his wireless communications and energy transmission tower which stood 186 ft. tall. Tesla had purchased 200 acres of a potato farm owned by James Warden in 1901 to construct the laboratory, which was designed by renowned architect Stanford White and funded by J. P. Morgan. The Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe are planning to create a science museum and learning center through restoration of the original laboratory building. The existing tower base will remain intact. In 1967, the laboratory building was the first to be considered for listing on the Town of Brookhaven registry of historic sites.

The building is located on the north side of Route 25A between the intersection of Randall Road and the Shoreham Fire Department. It is within the area covered in the Route 25A Mount Sinai to Wading River Land Use Plan, a 10.5 mile stretch of Route 25A through the hamlets of Mount Sinai, Miller Place, Sound Beach, Rocky Point, Shoreham and Wading River to the Riverhead town line. The proposed science museum and learning center is consistent with the plan which was spearheaded by Councilwoman Bonner.

For more information about the not-for profit Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe, visit www.teslasciencecenter.org . To discover more historic sites in Brookhaven Town, visit www.brookhaven.org or our tourism website at www.visitbrookhaven.com .

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

One Independence Hill • Farmingville • NY 11738 • Phone (631) 451-6595 • Fax (631) 451-6258